

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to *Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.*

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Our ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist before and after worship in the Parish Hall. A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our service comes from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, and the 1982 Hymnal. This service is filled with vibrant music, the reading of sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. With processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. *At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.*

In addition to Sunday services, we also offer a Healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon and on Thursday at 9:00 a.m., Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. All are welcome to join!

FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS

Our friends at home: Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Peggy Zuke, Theresa Sullivan, Jim Crothers

Our prayer list: Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, John Lawrence, Elly, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz Skiles, Maria Wright, Denise Chandler, Kate Benson, John, Rose, Shannon & David Kitlinski, Maxwell Good, Bart Smallwood, Garth Alexander

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Toccata on Ode to Joy

Paul Fey

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMNAL 376

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GLORIA

*Glory be God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

HYMNAL S-278

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14 (*please be seated*)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

People The word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 149

1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;

7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;

9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

People The word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20 (*please rise in body or spirit*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. *(pause)*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(please kneel as you are able)*

Gracious God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son,
therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)

God, enliven the church for its mission, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey
and Kevin, our Bishops; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Kim, our seminarian. In the
Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Peter's Tunkhannock; St. Luke's,
Mechanicsburg; and The Anglican Province of Alexandria.
That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world:

(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the community:

(Particular intercessions/thanksgivings may be offered.)

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others; especially Donald, the President; Josh, the Governor; and Jamie, the Mayor.

That all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. We pray especially for our friends at home; Ellen, Nancy, Joanna, Al, Mary Sue, Ellen, Edith, Merle, Peggy, Theresa, and Jim.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit; especially Judy, Andrew, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted, Collin, Eileen, Sandy, Marshall, Leslie, John, Elly, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz, Maria, Denise, Kate, John, Rose, Shannon & David, Maxwell, Bart, and Garth.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn. We praise you for St. John and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May their example inspire and encourage us.

Celebrant Those things, good Lord, that your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE (*please rise in body or spirit*)

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BCP 830

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever
they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or
sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes
understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



*Thank you for your generosity as we seek to live into our mission and
ministries. Together, our gifts make this community of welcome,
reconciliation, and service possible. You can place your offering in the
plates when they are passed or by using our secure QR Code. Thank you
for sharing your gifts!*

THE OFFERTORY

The Prayer

David Foster & Carole B Sager

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing;
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

HYMNAL 410**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2****EOW**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

THE SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

HYMNAL S-128

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with John, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Where Charity and Love Prevail
O God of Every Nation*

HYMNAL 581

HYMNAL 607

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People *We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

EOW

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Go forth now into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone. Love and serve the Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Preludio Festivo

Paul Fey

COFFEE HOUR SIGNUP TIME! | We are looking for help hosting our coffee hour after each service on Sunday morning. You can choose to do both in one day or pick one that works best for you. You can also team up with a friend to host. Hosting a Coffee hour is a fun way to get to know other parishioners and helps us build community within our parish. If you are new to hosting, we will walk you through the kitchen and show you the ropes – we promise it's pretty straightforward! Food should be very simple - maybe some fruit or veggies and a few treats. Coffee is provided by the church.

If you have questions, please contact Karen DiPace at 717-368-0319 or karen.dipace@gmail.com. I will be glad to discuss any concerns you may have! Thank you in advance for considering this very important ministry to our church. Scan the QR code to sign up or sign up in the Parish Hall!



St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Selam from Ethiopia! I've always loved this greeting, here in this lovely country in east Africa. It means both "hello" and "peace" in Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia. Another common greeting is *Tena Yistilin*, or "may God give you health."

There's only a few thousand Anglicans in Ethiopia, and most live here in Addis Ababa, the capital, which sits at nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. The air is thin but the people here couldn't be more welcoming, especially as the World Health Organization meets here for its annual meeting. With the horrible Ebola virus spreading rapidly in central Africa, they have plenty to talk about. Ethiopia's been one of the leaders in coordinating efforts to send hundreds of doctors, nurses, and scientists to respond to the disaster.

I spoke with one of the doctors earlier today over a cup of Arabica coffee – which originated in Ethiopia. I asked him if he was scared to leave his family behind and head to a brand new country to help vaccinate strangers.

He looked at me with a funny glance. "You make it sound like I'm headed to outer space," he said. "All I'm trying to do is help people. Ethiopians helping Congoans helping Ugandans. Just as it happens in Europe, or America. We just want to help make things a little bit better."

I couldn't argue with that – people, no matter their skill or background, doing their best to make the world a better place. Something I think we can all agree on.

Blessings always,
John Traveler

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

POWER PACKS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! | Would you be interested in being part of a team of volunteers who hand out Power Pack food boxes on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-5:00pm? The Power Packs Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger in local schools over the weekend, when free school breakfasts and lunches aren't available. We need a team of four or five people willing to volunteer once per month. Contact the church office at 717-299-1188 / office@stjohns-lancaster.org if you are interested in joining.

FOYER GROUPS ARE REORGANIZING FOR A NEW SEASON! | Foyer Groups are small, social gatherings of parishioners that meet once a month to share a meal and fellowship. We launched foyer groups last year and are looking forward to another season of getting to know one another. We will host a whole group lunch after Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Sept. 20**. This is when you will meet your group and organize your next meeting.

We are exploring a **new Foyer Group specifically for parents and families!** The group would meet on the second Sunday of each month after Coffee Hour, around 12 pm, for a relaxed potluck lunch. We look forward to welcoming all new and returning friends. For more information and to sign up, contact Gretchen Walden at gretchdw@gmail.com or call/text at 540-817-9013. A Sign-up sheet is also in the Parish Hall!

TLC | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. | All are welcome to join for our monthly meeting and potluck in the Parish Hall. TLC is St. John's LGBTQIA+ Affirming & Advocacy Group. Questions, please email MariaWeaverH@gmail.com

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service!

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:15 AM Holy Eucharist II with music

1:00 PM Education for Ministry

MONDAY

Administrative Day (office closed)

TUESDAY

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry

2:30 PM Food Pantry

4:00 PM Finance Committee

5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing

2:00 PM Bible Study

6:30 PM Community Choir Rehearsal

7:00 Pm Regional Confirmation Service

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:30 AM Staff Meeting

2:30 PM Food Pantry

SATURDAY

12:30 PM Citizen's Climate Lobby

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Rob Kazee, Ecumenical Associate

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Mary Huber (*Jr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*),
Emma Luck (*Secretary*), Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Mary Huber,
Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (music@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (finance@stjohns-lancaster.org)
John Knouse, Property Manager (property@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Alisha Hurst, Parish Administrator (alisha@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

WWW.STJOHNS-LANCASTER.ORG / 717.299.1188